

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:
current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the
apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management means for storing location information received by said
current location information receiving means;

server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding plural
domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made, ~~said server information~~
~~including an IP address;~~

server management means for storing the server information received by said server
information receiving means;

request receiving means for receiving a ~~first~~ domain name inquiry request ~~to a first~~
~~domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain~~
~~name system server in the domain name system servers~~ from a client ~~and for storing a start~~
~~time of each domain name inquiry request;~~

request transferring means for ~~transferring~~ creating first and second domain name
inquiry requests based on the domain name inquiry ~~requests~~ request received by said request
receiving means ~~to the first and second domain name system servers based on and~~ at least one
of said location information and said server information, and for transferring said first and
second domain name inquiry requests to the first and second domain name system servers,
respectively;

response receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the
first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain

name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server ~~after receiving the first domain name inquiry response~~; and

request responding means for selecting the second domain name ~~system server~~ inquiry response based at least on ~~a priority of the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request servers~~ and for sending the ~~selected second~~ domain name inquiry response corresponding to the ~~selected second~~ domain name system server to said client.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

algorithm receiving means for receiving an algorithm for selecting said second domain name inquiry response;

algorithm management means for storing the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving means; and

algorithm processing means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response in said request responding means by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management means.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

a first step of receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

a second step of storing the location information received in said first step;

a third step of receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made, ~~said server information including an IP address;~~

a fourth step of storing the server information received in said third step;

a fifth step of receiving a ~~first~~ domain name inquiry request ~~to a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers~~ from a client and ~~storing a start time of each domain name inquiry request;~~

a sixth step of ~~transferring~~ creating first and second domain name inquiry requests based on the domain name inquiry ~~requests~~ request received in said fifth step ~~to the first and second domain name system servers based on and~~ at least one of said location information and said server information, and of transferring said first and second domain name inquiry requests to the first and second domain name system servers, respectively;

a seventh step of receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server ~~after receiving the first domain name inquiry response;~~ and

an eighth step of selecting the second domain name ~~system server inquiry response~~ based at least on ~~a priority of the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request servers~~ and of sending the selected second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the selected second domain name system server to said client.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method according to Claim 3, further comprising:

a ninth step of receiving an algorithm for selecting said second domain name inquiry response;

a tenth step of storing the algorithm received in said ninth step; and

an eleventh step of selecting the second domain name inquiry response in said eighth step by using the algorithm stored in said eleventh step.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium having program instructions which, when executed by a processor to perform a domain name system inquiry method recorded therein, the domain name system inquiry method, results in performance of the steps comprising:

a first step of receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

a second step of storing the location information received in said first step;

a third step of receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made, ~~said server information including an IP address;~~

a fourth step of storing the server information received in said third step;

a fifth step of receiving a ~~first domain name inquiry request to a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers~~ from a client and ~~storing a start time of each domain name inquiry request;~~

a sixth step of ~~transferring~~ creating first and second domain name inquiry requests based on the domain name inquiry requests request received in said fifth step to the first and second domain name system servers based on and at least one of said location information and said server information, and of transferring said first and second domain name inquiry requests to the first and second domain name system servers, respectively;

a seventh step of receiving a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server ~~after receiving the first domain name inquiry response~~; and

an eighth step of selecting the second domain name ~~system server inquiry response~~ based at least on a ~~priority of the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request servers~~ and sending the ~~selected~~ second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the ~~selected second~~ domain name system server to said client.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:
current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism;

server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made, ~~said server information including an IP address~~;

server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

request receiving mechanism configured to receive a ~~first~~ domain name inquiry request to a ~~first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers~~ from a client and to ~~store a start time of each domain name inquiry request~~;

request transferring mechanism configured to ~~transfer~~ create first and second domain name inquiry requests based on the domain name inquiry ~~requests~~ request received by said request receiving mechanism ~~to the first and second domain name system servers based on~~ and at least one of said location information and said server information, and to transfer said first and second domain name inquiry requests to the first and second domain name system servers, respectively;

response receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server ~~after receiving the first domain name inquiry response;~~ and

request responding mechanism configured to select the second domain name ~~system server inquiry response~~ based at least on a priority of the server information corresponding to the first and second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the IP address included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request servers and to send the second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the ~~selected~~ second domain name system server to said client.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 6, further comprising:

algorithm receiving mechanism configured to receive an algorithm for selecting said second domain name inquiry response;

algorithm management mechanism configured to store the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving mechanism; and

algorithm processing section mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response in said request responding mechanism by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management mechanism.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:
~~current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;~~

~~current location management means for storing location information received by said current location information receiving means;~~

server information receiving means for receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made, ~~said server information including a failure counter;~~

server management means for storing the server information received by said server information receiving means;

request receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry request ~~to a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and to store a start time of each domain name inquiry request, said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;~~

request transferring means for transferring the domain name inquiry ~~requests~~ request ~~received by said request receiving means to the first and second domain name system servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;~~

response receiving means for receiving a first domain name inquiry response ~~to the first domain name inquiry request~~ from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response ~~to the second domain name inquiry request~~ from the second domain

name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response; and

request responding means for selecting the second domain name ~~system server inquiry response~~ based at least on a ~~priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request~~ corresponding to the first and second domain name servers and for sending the ~~selected~~ second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the ~~selected~~ second domain name system server to said client.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising:

algorithm receiving means for receiving an algorithm for selecting said second domain name inquiry response;

algorithm management means for storing the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving means; and

algorithm processing means for selecting said second domain name inquiry response in said request responding means by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management means.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry method comprising:

~~receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;~~

~~storing the received location information;~~

receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made, ~~said server information including a failure counter;~~

storing the received server information;

receiving a ~~first domain name inquiry request to a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and storing a start time of each domain name inquiry request,~~ said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;

transferring the received domain name inquiry ~~requests~~ request to the first and second domain name system servers based on ~~at least one of said location information and said server information;~~

receiving a first domain name inquiry response ~~to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response,~~ the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response; and

selecting the second domain name ~~system server inquiry response~~ based at least on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request corresponding to the first and second domain

name servers and sending the ~~selected~~second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the ~~selected~~second domain name system server to said client.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A domain name system inquiry method according to Claim 10, further comprising:

receiving an algorithm for selecting said second domain name inquiry response;
storing the received algorithm; and
selecting the second domain name inquiry response by using the stored algorithm.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable recording medium having a program instructions which, when executed by a processor to perform a domain name system inquiry method recorded therein, the domain name system inquiry method, results in performance of the steps comprising:

~~receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;~~
~~storing the received location information;~~
receiving server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made, ~~said server information including a failure counter;~~
storing the received server information;
receiving a first domain name inquiry request ~~to a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers~~ from a client and ~~storing a start time of each domain name inquiry request,~~ said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;

transferring the received domain name inquiry ~~requests~~ request to the first and second domain name system servers based on ~~at least one of said location information and said~~ server information;

receiving a first domain name inquiry response ~~to the first domain name inquiry request~~ from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response ~~to the second domain name inquiry request~~ from the second domain name server ~~after receiving the first domain name inquiry response~~, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response; and

selecting the second domain name ~~system server inquiry response~~ based at least on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request corresponding to the first and second domain name servers and sending the ~~selected~~ second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the ~~selected~~ second domain name system server to said client.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A domain name system inquiry apparatus comprising:

~~a current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;~~

~~a current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism;~~

a server information receiving mechanism configured to receive server information regarding plural domain name system servers to which an inquiry can be made, ~~said server information including a failure counter;~~

a server management mechanism configured to store the server information received by said server information receiving mechanism;

a request receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry request to a first domain name system server and a second domain name inquiry request to a second domain name system server in the domain name system servers from a client and to store the start time of each domain name inquiry request, said domain name inquiry request including a host name and a request for a domain name server to transmit a domain name inquiry response;

a request transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry requests received by said request receiving mechanism request to the first and second domain name system servers based on at least one of said location information and said server information;

a response receiving mechanism configured to receive a first domain name inquiry response to the first domain name inquiry request from the first domain name server and a second domain name inquiry response to the second domain name inquiry request from the second domain name server after receiving the first domain name inquiry response, the first and second domain name inquiry responses each including an IP address indicator including (i) an IP address corresponding to the host name or (ii) an indication that the IP address corresponding to the host name is unknown,

wherein the IP address indicator in the first domain name inquiry response is different than the IP address indicator in the second domain name inquiry response; and

a request responding mechanism configured to select the second domain name system server based at least on a priority of the second domain name system server being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server, ~~the failure counter included in the server information and the start time of the domain name inquiry request corresponding to the first and second domain name servers~~ and to send the ~~selected~~ second domain name inquiry response corresponding to the ~~selected~~ second domain name system server to said client.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A domain name system inquiry apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising:

an algorithm receiving mechanism configured to receive an algorithm for selecting said second domain name inquiry response;

an algorithm management mechanism configured to store the algorithm received by said algorithm receiving mechanism; and

an algorithm processing mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response in said request responding mechanism by using the algorithm stored in said algorithm management mechanism.

Claim 15 (New): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a priority of the second domain name system server included in the server information being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server included in the server information.

Claim 16 (New): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server

information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 17 (New): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a response time of the second domain name inquiry response is greater than a response time of the first domain name inquiry response.

Claim 18 (New): The method of claim 3, further comprising:
selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a priority of the second domain name system server included in the server information being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server included in the server information.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 3, further comprising:
selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 3, wherein a response time of the second domain name inquiry response is greater than a response time of the first domain name inquiry response.

Claim 21 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 5, further comprising program instructions resulting in the step of selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a priority of the second domain name system server included in the server

information being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server included in the server information.

Claim 22 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 5, further comprising program instructions resulting in the step of selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 23 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein a response time of the second domain name inquiry response is greater than a response time of the first domain name inquiry response.

Claim 24 (New): The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a selecting mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response based on a priority of the second domain name system server included in the server information being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server included in the server information.

Claim 25 (New): The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a selecting mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 26 (New): The apparatus of claim 6, wherein a response time of the second domain name inquiry response is greater than a response time of the first domain name inquiry response.

Claim 27 (New): The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

current location information receiving means for receiving location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;

current location management means for storing location information received by said current location information receiving means; and

means for transferring the domain name inquiry based on the location information.

Claim 28 (New): The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a priority of the second domain name system server included in the server information being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server included in the server information.

Claim 29 (New): The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising means for selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 30 (New): The apparatus of claim 8, wherein a response time of the second domain name inquiry response is greater than a response time of the first domain name inquiry response.

Claim 31 (New): The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

storing the received location information; and

transferring the received domain name inquiry request based on the location information.

Claim 32 (New): The method of claim 10, further comprising:

selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a priority of the second domain name system server included in the server information being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server included in the server information.

Claim 33 (New): The method of claim 10, further comprising:

selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 10, wherein a response time of the second domain name inquiry response is greater than a response time of the first domain name inquiry response.

Claim 35 (New): The computer-readable recording medium of claim 12, further comprising program instructions resulting in the steps of:

receiving location information of an apparatus itself on a connected network;

storing the received location information; and

transferring the received domain name inquiry request based on the location information.

Claim 36 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 12, further comprising program instructions resulting in the step of selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a priority of the second domain name system server included in the server information being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server included in the server information.

Claim 37 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 12, further comprising program instructions resulting in the step of selecting the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 38 (New): The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein a response time of the second domain name inquiry response is greater than a response time of the first domain name inquiry response.

Claim 39 (New): The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
a current location information receiving mechanism configured to receive location information of the apparatus itself on a connected network;
a current location management mechanism configured to store location information received by said current location information receiving mechanism; and
a transferring mechanism configured to transfer the domain name inquiry based on the location information.

Claim 40 (New): The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a selecting mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response based on a priority

of the second domain name system server included in the server information being higher than a priority of the first domain name system server included in the server information.

Claim 41 (New): The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a selecting mechanism configured to select the second domain name inquiry response based on a failure counter included in the server information corresponding to the first domain name system server exceeding a predetermined value.

Claim 42 (New): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a response time of the second domain name inquiry response is greater than a response time of the first domain name inquiry response.